

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 96-146-C - ORDER NO. 96-726
OCTOBER 17, 1996

IN RE: Application of OPTEX, Inc. for)	ORDER
a Certificate of Public Convenience and)	APPROVING
Necessity to Provide Intrastate Resold)	CERTIFICATE
Telecommunications Services within the)	
State of South Carolina.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of OPTEX, Inc. ("OPTEX" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to operate as a reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina. The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-280 (Supp. 1995) and the Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed OPTEX to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of OPTEX's Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. OPTEX complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. A Petition to Intervene was filed by the Consumer Advocate for the State of South

Carolina (the "Consumer Advocate"). Subsequently, the Consumer Advocate notified the Commission that it was satisfied that the Company's filing was consistent with prior dockets, and, therefore, the Consumer Advocate would not participate in the scheduled hearing.

A hearing was commenced on September 11, 1996, at 11.00 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room. The Honorable Guy Butler, Chairman, presided. OPTEX was not represented by counsel. Catherine D. Taylor, Staff Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Michael Guider, President of OPTEX, appeared and offered testimony in support of OPTEX's Application. Mr. Guider stated that OPTEX is a Ohio corporation which is registered to do business in South Carolina as a foreign corporation. According to Mr. Guider, OPTEX proposes to offer long distance services using resold transmission services of carriers certificated to carry traffic in South Carolina. Mr. Guider explained the Company's request for authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina as a reseller. The record reveals the Company's services, operations and marketing procedures.

Mr. Guider also explained that OPTEX possesses the technical, financial and managerial abilities to provide its services in South Carolina. Mr. Guider further testified that the Company had made certain changes to its proposed tariff to comply with Commission guidelines and prior Orders.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's

Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. OPTEX is incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio and is licensed to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.

2. OPTEX operates as a non-facilities based reseller of interexchange services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.

3. OPTEX has the experience, capability, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above findings of fact, the Commission determines that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to OPTEX to provide intrastate interLATA service and to originate and terminate toll traffic within the same LATA, as set forth herein, through the resale of intrastate Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS), Message Telecommunications Service (MTS), Foreign Exchange Service, Private Line Service, or any other services authorized for resale by tariffs of carriers approved by the Commission.

2. The Commission adopts a rate design for OPTEX for its resale services which includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels

has been previously adopted by the Commission. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc., Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

3. OPTEX shall not adjust its rates below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. OPTEX shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc., Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 1995).

4. OPTEX shall file its revised maximum tariff and an accompanying price list within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order and shall be consistent with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

5. OPTEX is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that for

access purposes resellers should be treated similarly to facilities-based interexchange carriers.

6. With regard to the Company's resale of service, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user so desires.

7. OPTEX shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission. If OPTEX changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

8. With regard to the origination and termination of toll calls within the same LATA, OPTEX shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 92-182-C, 92-183-C, and 92-200-C (June 3, 1993).

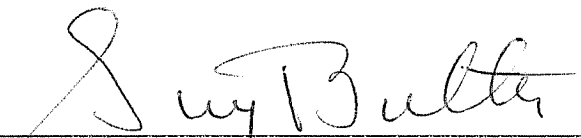
9. OPTEX shall file surveillance reports on a calendar or fiscal year basis with the Commission as required by Order No. 88-178 in Docket No. 87-483-C. The proper form for these reports is indicated on Attachment A.

10. OPTEX shall, in compliance with Commission Regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relation (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. OPTEX shall file the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these representatives with the

Commission within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission in writing if the representatives are replaced, and the Company is directed to comply with Commission regulations unless waived by the Commission.

11. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)

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ATTACHMENT A

ANNUAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS
FOR INTEREXCHANGE COMPANIES AND AOS'S

COMPANY NAME

FEI NO.

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

- (1) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING REVENUES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (2) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (3) RATE BASE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS* FOR 12
MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- * THIS WOULD INCLUDE GROSS PLANT, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION,
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, CASH WORKING CAPITAL, CONSTRUCTION
WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAX,
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.
- (4) PARENT'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE* AT DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING _____.
- * THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL LONG TERM DEBT (NOT THE CURRENT PORTION
PAYABLE), PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON EQUITY.
- (5) PARENT'S EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR LONG TERM DEBT AND
EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR PREFERRED STOCK AT YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (6) ALL DETAILS ON THE ALLOCATION METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE
AMOUNT OF EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS AS
WELL AS METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF COMPANY'S RATE BASE INVESTMENT
(SEE #3 ABOVE).

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT)

TITLE